

Area 4's Community Art Center to unveil renovation plans next Monday

Wicked Local Cambridge

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Cambridge — [The Community Art Center](#) in Cambridge's Area 4 neighborhood will share plans on Monday detailing complete renovation of its facilities, set to begin in fall 2009. Congressman Michael Capuano, D-MA, will join the Art Center and Michael Price Architects for the announcement.

The renovation makes use of the majority of a capital grant awarded to the Community Art Center in 2006 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Approximately \$25,000 of the \$100,000 has upgraded the media equipment used by participants in the Teen Media Program.

"Public support for non profit organizations is especially important in the moment that we're in," said Eryn Johnson, executive director of Community Art Center. "Congressman Capuano is a steadfast supporter of youth services and we greatly appreciate his efforts to make a more beautiful and therefore enriching space for the youth of Cambridge."

The goal of the design proposal for the Community Art center is to create a revitalized, inviting and exciting environment that supports and furthers the mission of the Community Art Center;

to create flexible and engaging spaces that support and make visible the activities being performed within; to provide for better visual control and observation of program spaces; to provide new opportunities and spaces for display of art and media; and to provide better storage and support spaces. The renovation, scheduled to take place in three phases, will begin in December 2009.

The Community Art Center provides 250 young people in Cambridge with access to the arts through its School Age Child Care Program and its Teen Media Program. The Teen Media Program teaches teaching video production, photography, and sound skills and allows teens to participate in Genuine Productions, a youth business venture. CAC's national "Do It Your Damn Self!" video festival, held each fall, highlights youth filmmakers and their work.

In 2005, CAC won a Coming Up Taller Award from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. In 2008, it was a finalist for a Social Innovation Forum award.

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